

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A jointing system for supporting a plurality of cladding panels relative to a building or building frame, the panels having slots extending along edges thereof, the jointing system including:

a first and second elongate support members, each support member having:

a longer inner flange for fastening to the building or building frame,

a shorter outer flange, and

a web connecting the longer inner flange to the shorter outer flange to form an elongate recess on each side of the web for receiving sealing means therein, the web being substantially centrally disposed relative to side edges of at least one of the longer inner flange and the shorter outer flange such that the elongate support member is substantially H-shaped in cross section; and

sealing means received in at least one elongate recess,

wherein the distance between the outer surfaces of the flanges of the second elongate support member is less than the distance between outer surfaces of the flanges of the first elongate support member such that when the first and second elongate support members orthogonally abut, with the outer surface of the longer inner flange of the second elongate support member resting on an inner surface of the longer inner flange of the first elongate support member, the outer surfaces of the shorter outer flanges of the first and second elongate support members are substantially coplanar and the outer surface of the longer inner flange of the second elongate support member is offset from the outer surface of the longer inner flange of the first elongate support member by a thickness of the longer inner flange of the

first elongate support member; wherein when a cladding panel is supported relative to the building or building frame by the jointing system, at least one ~~the~~ outer flange of the first and second elongate support members is received in one of the slots along the edges of the cladding panel; and wherein the sealing means cooperates with the panel to substantially seal a space behind the cladding panel against the ingress of moisture.

2. (Previously Presented) The jointing system of claim 1, wherein the first elongate support member is an aluminum extrusion.

3. (Previously Presented) The jointing system of claim 1, wherein the sealing means is a beading of sealant.

4. (Previously Presented) The jointing system of claim 1, wherein the sealing means is an elongate gasket located in each elongate recess.

5. (Previously Presented) The jointing system of claim 4, wherein each elongate gasket includes longitudinally extending rib means and a longitudinally extending end portion such that when the outer flange is received in the one of the slots along the edges of the cladding panel, the rib means resiliently engage an inner surface of the cladding panel and the longitudinally extending end portion resiliently engages an inner edge of the cladding panel adjacent the slots.

6. (Previously Presented) The jointing system of claim 1, wherein the longer inner flange extends at each side thereof beyond the ends of the shorter outer flange sufficiently to allow screws to be fixed therethrough for fastening the support member to the building or building frame.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method of fastening a plurality of cladding panels to a building or building frame, the panels having slots extending along edges thereof, the method including:

fastening to the building or building frame a jointing system, the jointing system having ~~an~~ first and second elongate support members each having a longer inner flange for fastening to the building or building frame, and a shorter outer flange ~~the inner flange being connected by a web to a shorter outer flange~~ to form an elongate recess on each side of the web for receiving sealing means therein, the web being substantially centrally disposed relative to ends of at least one of the inner and outer flange such that each of the first and second elongate support members ~~is~~ are substantially H-shaped in cross section, and

supporting a cladding panel relative to the building or building frame with the outer flange of one of the first and second support members received in one of the slots of the cladding panel,

wherein the inner flange of the second support member is planar; wherein the first and second support members are orthogonally arranged such that a portion of the inner flange of the second support member rests against the inner flange of the first support member; and wherein the sealing means cooperate with the panel to substantially seal a space behind the cladding panel against the ingress of moisture.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the sealing means is an elongate gasket pre-located in each recess.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further including:
inserting a beading of sealant in each recess.